THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND.

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 21st Day of *May* 1778.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.

EDINBURGH:

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General Assembly

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OF

SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh* the 21st Day of *May* 1778, and concluded the 1st *June*, said year.

I.

The King's Commission to GEORGE Earl of DALHOUSIE produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 21. 1778.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable GEORGE Earl of DALHOUSIE, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great

Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and conſtituting him his Majeſty's High Commiſſioner and Repreſentative in this Aſſembly; which commiſſion was publicly read with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Aſſembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei, Defenſor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præſentes literæ noſtre pervenerint, ſalutem. Quandoquidem nos conſiderantes, quod generalis eccleſiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigeſimum primum diem Maii inſtantis convenire ordinatus fuit; noſque etiam abunde cupidi, quinetiam neceſſarium eſſe judicantes in commodum dictæ eccleſiæ, ut idem generalis eccleſiæ conventus, die ſtatuto debito obſervetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui perſonaliter intereſſe nequimus; noſque abunde ſatisfacti de fidelitate et ſufficientia fideliſſimi et dilectiſſimi noſtri conſanguinei,* Georgii Comitis de Dalhouſie, *quod ad ſummum munus poſtea mentionatum rite exercendum et obeundum uſquequaque ſit qualificatus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominaſſe, conſtituiſſe, et ordinaſſe, ſicuti nos, tenore præſentium, nominamus, conſtituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum* Georgium Comitem de Dalhouſie, *ſupremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium ad effectum poſtea mentionatum dando et concedendo illi pleniſſimam noſtram poteſtatem, commiſſionem, et warrantem, ſacram noſtram perſonam et authoritatem regalem repreſentandi, nec non preſentiam noſtram ſupplendi, et locum noſtrum in dicto ſubſequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commiſſionario noſtro ad hunc effectum ſpecialiter conſtituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et locum Commiſſionarii pro generali eccleſiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in omnibus reſpectibus, quam quilibet alius ejuſdem ſummi muneris fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac ſi nos ipſi perſonaliter preſentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et ſingula ab antedicto* Georgio Comite de Dalhouſie, *in hac noſtra commiſſione proſequenda legitime fecerit, ſeu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri ſumus. Omnibus et ſingulis inſuper antedictæ eccleſiæ et conventus paſtoribus, et preſbyteriis, cæteriſque quibuſcunque infra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, ſubditis noſtris, quibuſcunque cujuſcunque gradus ſeu qualitatis, ut dictum* Georgium Comitem de Dalhouſie, *tanquam ſupremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium, quoad effectum et modum ſupra mentionatum revereantur, agnoſcant, et dict. ipſius*

audientes

audientes se præbeant, stricte mandamus et imperamus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem, a dicto vigesimo primo die Maii instantis incipere, et deinceps hac subsequend. sessione dicti generalis conventus, in vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem, utend. ordinat. præsentibus appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, duodecimo die mensis Maii, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo septuagesimo octavo, regnique nostri anno decimo octavo. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis suprascript.

II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and well-beloved, we greet you well. The proofs which we have so constantly received of the duty, loyalty, and affection of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and of their invariable attention to the very important objects committed to their care, give us the greatest pleasure. We have the strongest reliance on your endeavours to promote, with a truly Christian zeal, the cause of religion and virtue, and to discountenance every practice which may have a tendency to impiety and immorality. You may rely upon our ready concurrence with you in every thing that may advance these laudable purposes, so essential to the welfare of our people, and in our resolution to support the Church of Scotland in all its rights, as by law established.

We need not recommend the avoiding of all contention and unedifying debates to thoſe who have no other object in their view than that of ſuppreſſing licentiouſneſs, immorality, and vice; and who are actuated purely by that zeal which tends to the advancement of true religion, and the general peace and happineſs of ſociety.

We have again appointed our right truſty and right well-beloved couſin, George Earl of Dalhouſie, to repreſent our Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly, being well ſatisfied of his loyalty, integrity, and zeal for our ſervice, and of his particular affection to the Church of Scotland; and we are perſuaded that our choice of him will be agreeable to you.

We have the fulleſt reliance, from long experience, that charity, brotherly-love, and unanimity will prevail in all your proceedings in the buſineſs before you, and that you will bring this meeting to a happy concluſion. And ſo we bid you heartily farewel.

Given at our Court at St James's, the 12th day of May 1778, in the eighteenth year of our reign.

By his Majeſty's command,

(Signed) SUFFOLK.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's most gracious Letter was received and read with all the respect and gratitude due to so condescending a mark of Royal favour.

Your Majesty's approbation of the duty, loyalty, and affection of the General Assemblies of this Church, gives us the greatest satisfaction; and cannot but animate us with such zeal, to give invariable attention to the important objects committed to our care, as may recommend us to the continuance of your Majesty's favourable regard.

The manner in which your Majesty is pleased to express your reliance on our endeavours to promote the cause of religion and virtue, and to discountenance every practice which may have a tendency to impiety and immorality, whilst it clearly points out to us the great objects of our attention, powerfully excites us to use our most vigorous efforts in advancing those valuable purposes; and the assurances your Majesty is pleased to give of your countenance to our endeavours, affords us the most agreeable prospect of success.

The gracious declaration of your Majesty's resolution to support the Church of Scotland in all her rights, as by law established, we receive with the greatest thankfulness, and rest in it with the most entire satisfaction and security.

It shall be our study to keep invariably in view the important ends of our meeting; and, agreeably to your Majesty's recommendation, to avoid contention and unedifying debates, fully sensible that they are inconsistent with the spirit of true religion, and destructive of the welfare of society.

Your

Your Majeſty's Royal donation, for propagating religion in the Highlands and iſlands of Scotland, we receive with all thankfulneſs, and we will be careful to apply it to the pious purpoſe for which it is beſtowed.

The choice which your Majeſty has been pleaſed to make of the Earl of Dalhouſie to repreſent your Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly, we regard as an additional inſtance of your Majeſty's favour. The approved fidelity and ability of that Noble Lord, his affection to the Church of Scotland, and the happy experience of a former Aſſembly, render your Majeſty's nomination of him moſt acceptable to us.

That Almighty God, the father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, may long preſerve your Majeſty, direct your councils, and proſper your adminiſtration; that he may beſtow his choiceſt bleſſings on your Royal Conſort the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family; that there never may be wanting one of your Royal Houſe to ſway the Britiſh ſceptre; and that, after a long and happy reign over a free people, your Majeſty may receive an unfading and eternal crown of righteouſneſs, are the earneſt prayers of,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,
Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,
Moſt obedient,
And moſt loyal Subjects,
The Miniſters and Elders met in this National
Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.
Signed in our name,
In our preſence,
And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, May 23. 1778. } PAT. GRANT, *Moderator.*

IV. The

IV.

The General Assembly's Address to his Majesty, on the present situation of affairs.

May it please your Majesty,

WE, your Majesty's most faithful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in national Assembly, consider it as our duty, at this season of public danger and alarm, to approach your throne, with the warmest declarations of our continued and inviolable attachment to your Majesty's person and government. While we view with no less astonishment than concern an unnatural and unprovoked rebellion still subsisting in North America, we must at the same time applaud that lenity which hath prompted your Majesty, as the father of your people, to hold out terms of conciliation to those deluded men, who have withdrawn their allegiance from a government under which they had attained the highest prosperity. We behold with satisfaction the measures which are taken, both for internal security, and for the support of the national honour, against the insult of every hostile power; and have the pleasure to assure your Majesty, that, in no part of your dominions, have exertions been made for that purpose with greater unanimity and ardour than among the people under our care. We entertain the firmest hopes, under the blessing of Almighty God, that, by a proper mixture of vigour and courage, with wisdom and mercy in the public Councils, your Majesty will continue to render the British name every where respectable and great. We can assure your Majesty, that, to the Ministers, the Elders, and every Member of this Church, nothing will give more joy, than to behold all the subjects of your wide-extended empire happy under subjection of that free and legal government to which we are indebted for the most valuable blessings.

That, for this end, your Majeſty's Councils may be ever inſpired with wiſdom from above, and your arms may be crowned with victory; that He, who turneth wars into peace in all the ends of the earth, may ſo rule in the hearts of men, that the preſent unhappy conteſt in which this kingdom is engaged may ſpeedily terminate in a peace, which ſhall be equitable, laſting, and conſiſtent with the honour and true intereſts of Great Britain; and that your Majeſty may long reign the happy Sovereign of a happy people, are the ſincere and earneſt prayers of,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,
Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,
Moſt obedient,
And moſt loyal Subjects,
The Miniſters and Elders met in this National
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Signed in our name,
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EDINBURGH, May 23, 1778.

PAT. GRANT, *Moderator*.

V.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, and for managing his Majeſty's Royal Bounty for that End.

THE General Aſſembly did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Rev. Dr Patrick Grant miniſter of the goſpel at Urry, their Moderator, all the miniſters who are members of the preſbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Robert

Robert Bowmaker at Dunſe, Mr George Cupples at Swinton, Mr William Simpſon at Morebottle, Mr Samuel Charteris at Wilton, Mr John Martin at Mertown, Mr John Cooper at Glaſs, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, Mr William Campbell at Lilliesleaf, Mr James Yorſton at Middlebie, Mr John Dow at Canonbie, Mr Jacob Dickſon at Mouſwald, Mr James Wallace at Keir, Mr Joſeph Kirkpatrick at Dunſcore, Mr William Donaldſon at Parton, Dr Iſaac Davidſon at Sorbie, Mr John M'Kenzie at Portpatrick, Mr John Smith at Galſton, Mr Alexander Gillies at Kilmars, Mr Colin Gillies at Greenock, Mr Michael M'Culloch at Bothwell, Mr William Stewart at Cumbernald, Mr William Taylor at Baldernock, Mr Colin Campbell at Kilmoden, Mr George M'Leiſh at Saddel, Mr Daniel Hyndman at Southknapdale, Mr John Smith at Kilbranden, Mr Norman M'Leod at Morvern, Mr James Smith at Rattray, Mr Charles Wilſon at Scoon, Mr John Wright at Trinity Gaſk, Mr Robert Stirling at Port, Mr David Balfour at Torryburn, Dr Hary Spens at Wemyſs, Mr Andrew Ireland at Moonzie, Mr Spens Oliphant at Largo, Mr James Ogilvy at Eſſie, Mr Thomas Wright at Roſcobie, Mr Andrew Hally at Lundie, Mr Alexander Mackie at Aberbrothock, Mr Charles Niſbet at Montroſe, Mr James Walker at Dunnoter, Mr David Cruden at Nigg, Mr John Ramſay at Strahan, Mr William Leſlie at Auchindore, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, Mr John Bonnyman at Premnay, Mr Robert Ballengal at Forglen, Mr James Dunbar at Boindy, Mr Algernon Gordon at Keith, Mr Lewis Grant at Duthill, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr James Gillon at Kinloſs, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr William Smith at Fettie, Mr Alexander Wood at Roſemarkie, Mr Andrew Gallie at Kincardin, Mr John Fraſer at Kilmorack, Mr Thomas Roſs at Kilmanevaig, Mr Martin M'Pherſon at Slate, Mr John Downie at Stornoway, Mr John M'Queen at Applecroſs, Mr Æneas M'Leod at Rogart, Mr William M'Kenzie at Tong, Mr Alexander Nicolſon at Thurſo, Mr James Weir at South Ronaldſhay, Mr James Bremner at Walls, Mr James Leſlie at Rouſay, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr Robert Wiſhart at Livingſtone, Mr David Dickſon at Liberton, Mr Robert Scot at Innerleithen, Mr John Gourlie at Crichton, Dr Joſeph M'Cormick at Preſtonpans,

pans, and Mr Daniel M'Queen at Preſton-Kirk, miniſters; Mathew Sandilands of Couſton, Eſq; the Lord Advocate, the Earl of Lauderdale, Mr Adam Ogilvy advocate, Mr Richard Tod merchant Leith, Mr Robert Johnſton merchant Edinburgh, Profeſſor George Jardin, Collector Ramſay at Dumfries, Mr Heron of Ingleſton, Mr William Chalmers ſurgeon Edinburgh, Profeſſor John Hill, Conveener Hart, William Wallace of Sauchrie, Eſq; Profeſſor Dugald Steuart, Mr Robert Cullen advocate, Sir James Colquhoun, Mr James Colquhoun advocate, Mr Lamont of Lamont, Mr M'Millan of Dunmore, Solicitor Murray, Mr James Loch writer, Mr M'Dugald of Hayfield, Mr Thomas Elder merchant in Edinburgh, Bailie James Gentle, Mr Andrew M'Cara merchant Edinburgh, Solicitor Balmain, Mr Andrew Balfour advocate, Mr William Chalmers writer, Mr Alexander Hart Clerk of Juſticiary, Mr John Scot advocate, Captain Robert Moodie, Mr Cuningham of Hyndhope, Mr John Moſman merchant in Edinburgh, Lord Weſthall, Mr Alexander Forbes writer, Mr John Robertſon writer, Mr George Ogilvy advocate, Mr Iſaac Grant writer, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr James Grant advocate, Mr Ludovick Grant, *jun.* writer, Bailie John Lothian, Mr William Dunbar writer, Mr Simon Frazer advocate, Bailie John Walker merchant Edinburgh, Mr Charles Wright merchant Edinburgh, Lord Ankerville, Mr Campbell younger of Fairfield, Mr Colquhoun Grant writer, Mr John Brown merchant Edinburgh, Mr Bannatyne M'Leod advocate, Mr William Robertſon advocate, procurator for the Church, Mr William M'Donald writer, Mr Alexander Abercrombie writer, Mr Alexander Abercrombie advocate, Mr Sawers of Bellſmill, Bailie Walter Hamilton, Dean of Guild Innes, Mr George Hume baker, Bailie John Learmonth, Bailie John Grieve, Mr Alexander Tait one of the Principle Clerks of Seſſion, the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Conveener Hamilton, Lord Chief Baron, Mr Stevenſon of Smithfield, Mr Niel Ferguſon advocate, and Mr Brown of Coalſton, ruling elders; to be a committee of this Aſſembly, for reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, ſuppreſſing popery and profaneneſs, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for theſe ends, according to, and in terms of his Majeſty's grant to this Aſſembly. In proſecution of which purpoſes,

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the committee are impowered to chuse their Moderator and clerk, to appoint preachers and catechists to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small-Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such preachers and catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the committee be duly observed by them. And the preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labours among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the committee are impowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the preachers and catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said committee, to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Assemblies; and to take care that presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several presbyteries to insert in their registers, the committee's appointments of the designations, sa-

laries, and ſtations of the ſeveral miſſionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they ſhall write about the ſaid miſſionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning miſſionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters ſhall be ſigned, at the appointment of the preſbytery, by the Moderator or clerk thereof: And the Aſſembly does diſcharge any payment to be made of the ſalaries of the miſſionaries, except upon receipts from the miſſionaries themſelves, and upon certificates from the preſbyteries, bearing, that they have ſerved for the time mentioned in the receipts. The General Aſſembly do alſo impower the ſaid committee, to apply, for the purpoſes above mentioned, what may remain of the laſt year's Royal Bounty not diſpoſed of, by reaſon of any of the miſſionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a regiſter of their proceedings, and likewiſe diſtinct books of accounts, how the foreſaid money is beſtowed, which ſhall be patent to any concerned who pleaſe to inſpect the ſame. Of the perſons above named as members of this committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be miniſters. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the committee, in which the ſcheme or eſtabliſhment of miſſionaries for the enſuing year is to be approved and determined, not leſs than fourteen ſhall be the quorum, whereof nine ſhall be miniſters; and the ſaid committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the firſt lawful day after the adjournment of the four ſtated diets of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, within the Aſſembly Iſle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day ſhall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting ſhall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the ſaid hour; with power to the ſaid committee, to adjourn themſelves to ſuch times and places as they ſhall find moſt needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correſpondence with the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, and the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their committee of directors, and to take their advice and aſſiſtance; and alſo to correſpond with the ſynods and preſbyteries concerned. They are likewiſe inſtructed and impowered, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, to apply to the Government, or any magiſtrate, for aſſiſtance

and

and ſupport in carrying on the deſign of the commiſſion now given to them. And the General Aſſembly do, by theſe preſents, nominate and appoint Mr William Robertſon advocate, procurator for the Church, to be receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the ſame as he ſhall be directed and ordered by the ſaid committee, and according to their rules. And the ſaid committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the diſtribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of his Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no perſon once employed and inſert in the ſcheme ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at leaſt fourteen, whereof nine to be miniſters; and in caſe any complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the ſcheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall lye on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the perſon complained of, and the preſbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch complaint, and theſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid committee a juſt account of the matter, againſt the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly ſcheme of miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty is ſettled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the preſbyteries concerned, ſuch preſbyteris ſhall ſend up to the ſaid committee their anſwer to theſe letters, at fartheſt with their commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the committee, at their firſt meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to compleat the next year's ſcheme themſelves; and if they cannot compleat it, they ſhall name a ſub-committee of their number for that purpoſe, who are to lay their draught thereof before a ſubſequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as ſoon after the riſing of the Aſſembly as poſſible. And impowered the committee, at their firſt meeting, to reject any petition for a new ſtation, in caſe they ſhall find ſufficient objections againſt it; and that the ſaid committee, in making up the ſcheme of miſſionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the ſum in the grant.

VI. Commiſſion

VI.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for diſcuſſing affairs referred to them.

THE General Aſſembly, conſidering there are divers affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby *nominate*, *commiſſion*, and *appoint* the Reverend Dr Patrick Grant, miniſter at Urray, their moderator; and from the preſbytery of Dunſe, Mr Adam Murray at Eccles, Mr Robert Bowmaker at Dunſe, and Matthew Sandilands of Couſton, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Churnſide, Mr John Waugh at Whitſome, Mr George Cupples at Swinton, and Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Bart. ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Kelſo, Dr Thomas Macdougal at Mackerſton, Mr William Simpſon at Morebottle, and the Lord Advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Jedburgh, Mr Robert Deans at Crailing, Mr Thomas Sommerville at Jedburgh, Mr Samuel Charteris at Wilton, and Mr John Lowrie, preacher of the goſpel, ruling elder; from the burgh of Jedburgh, the Earl of Lauderdale; from the preſbytery of Lauder, Mr James Ford at Lauder, Mr John Martin at Mertown, and James Hogg of Craigend, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Lawder, Thomas Hogg, younger of Newliſton, Eſq; from the preſbytery of Selkirk, Mr James Hume at Bowden, Mr William Campbell at Lilliesleaf, and Mr Adam Ogilvie, advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr Richard Tod merchant in Leith; from the preſbytery of Annan, Mr James Gath, at Graitney, Mr James Yorſtoun at Middlebee, and Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Annan, Mr Robert Johnſton merchant in Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Langholm, Mr Robert Rutherford at Caſtletown, Mr John Dow at Canonby, and Mr Gideon Rutherford of Greenpark, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Lochmaben, Mr Joſeph Ferguſon

Ferguſon at Tindergarth, Dr Patrick Niſbet at Hutton, Mr Jacob Dickſon at Mouſwald, and Robert Irvine of Woodhall, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Penpont, Mr William Kayden at Penpont, Mr James Wallace at Keir, and Sir James Kirkpatrick, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Sanquhar, Profeſſor George Jardine; from the preſbytery of Dumfries, Mr James Alexander at Kirkden, Mr William Wright at Newabbay, Mr Joſeph Kirkpatrick at Dunſcore, and Mr James Ramſay, Collector of Exciſe, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr Nathaniel M'Kie, at Corſmichael, Mr William Mackie at Balmaclennen, Mr William Donaldſon at Parton, and Andrew Heron of Ingleſtone, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of New Galloway, Mr William Chalmers ſurgeon in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Wigton, Mr William Boyd at Penningham, Dr Iſaac Davidſon at Sorbie, Mr John Brown merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wigton, Profeſſor Andrew Dalziel; from the burgh of Whithorn, Profeſſor John Hill; from the preſbytery of Stranrawer, Mr Andrew Roſs at Inch, Mr John M'Kenzie at Portpatrick, and Robert Cathcart of Genoch, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Stranrawer, Conveener Orlando Hart Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Ayr, Mr John Stiell at Stair, Mr Matthew Biggar at Kirkoſwald, Mr Andrew Shaw at Craigie, Mr John Ramſay at Kirkmichael, Mr George Smith at Galſton, William Wallace of Sauchrie, Eſq; and John Hamilton of Bargeny, Eſq; ruling elders; from the burgh of Ayr, Profeſſor Dugald Stewart; from the preſbytery of Irvine, Mr John Fullerton at Dalry, Mr Michael Tod at Dreghorn, Mr Alexander Gillies at Kilmaurs, and the Honourable Mr Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, ruling elder; from the burgh of Irvine, Mr John Buſhby writer in Dumfries; from the preſbytery of Paiſley, Mr John Monteith at Houſton, Mr James Moriſon at Paiſley, Mr Colin Gillies at Greenock, and Mr Patrick Crow ſmith in Paiſley, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Hamilton, Mr James Morehead at Stonehouſe, Mr John Riſk at Dalſerf, Mr Michael M'Culloch at Bothwell, and Mr Robert Cullen advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Lanark, Mr William Forreſter at Carſtairs, Mr James Gray at Lanark, and William Hope-Weir of

Craigiehall and Blackwood, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Dr John Gillies at Glasgow, Mr John Burns at Barony, Mr William Dun at Kirkintilloch, Mr William Stewart at Cumbernauld, Professor John Anderson and Professor Patrick Cumming, ruling elders; from the University of Glasgow, Professor Alexander Wilson; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr John Stewart at Luss, Mr John Grant at Arrochar, Mr William Taylor at Baldernock, and Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton, James Colquhoun younger of Luss, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Dunoon, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothsay, Mr Colin Campbell at Kilmodan, and John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Rothsay, Duncan M'Millan of Dunmore, Esq; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr John Hamilton at Kilmorie, Mr George Robertson at Campbelton, Mr George M'Lieſh at Saddel, and Mr Alexander Fleming manufacturer at Kirkliston, ruling elder; from the burgh of Campbelton, Sollicitor Murray; from the presbytery of Inveraray, Mr Peter Campbell at Glasserie, Mr Daniel Hyndman at South Knapdale, and Mr James Loch writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Inveraray, Doctor James Williamson; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Patrick Campbell at Kilninver, Mr John Smith at Kilbrandan, and Robert Campbell of Finab, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Patrick M'Arthur at Ardnamurchan, Mr Norman M'Leod at Morvern, and Allan M'Dougald of Hayfield, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Duncan M'Cara at Fortingall, Mr James Bisset at Caputh, Mr John Robertson at Little Dunkeld, Mr James Smith at Rattray, Major William Brown, and Mr Thomas Elder merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr Patrick Meek at Kinnoul, Mr Andrew Williamson at Arngosk, Mr David Moncrieff at Regorton, Mr Charles Wilson at Scone, Sir John Belches, and Bailie John Caw merchant in Perth, ruling elders; from the burgh of Perth, Provost William Stewart; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr James Frame at Alloa, Mr John Muschet at Stirling, and John Callender of Craigforth, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr John Scott at Muthell, Mr Lewis Dunbar

bar at Dunning, Mr John Wright at Trinity-Gask, and Baillie James Gentle, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr James Wright at Logie, Mr Robert Stirling at Port, and John Campbell of Lochend, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr John Spence at Orwall, Mr George Adie at Carnock, Mr David Balfour at Torryburn, and Dr John Steedman physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunfermline, Bailie William Hutton merchant in Dunfermline; from the burgh of Culross, Allan M'Conochie of Meadowbank, Esq; from the burgh of Inverkeithing, Dean of Guild James Young; from the burgh of Dysart, Mr Andrew M'Cara merchant in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr Matthew Mitchell at Auchterderen, Mr Henry Moir at Aughtertool, Dr Harry Spens at Wemyss, and Mr James Fergus merchant in Kirkcaldie, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcaldie, Mr Henry Beveridge baker in Kirkcaldie; from the burgh of Kinghorn, James Balmain, Esq; Sollicitor of Excise; from the burgh of Burntisland, Samuel Charteris, Esq; Sollicitor of his Majesty's Customs; from the presbytery of Cupar, Mr Michael Greenlaw at Creich, Mr Robert Bogie at Logie, Mr Robert M'Culloch at Dairsie, Mr Andrew Ireland at Moonzie, Major John Melvill of Cairnie, and Andrew Barclay of Pittachup, Esq; ruling elders; from the presbytery of St Andrews, Dr John Chalmers at Kilconquhar, Mr Joseph Pitcairn at Carnbee, Mr William Beate at Kilrennie, Mr Spence Oliphant at Largo, Professor George Hill, and Mr John Lamont, surgeon in Largo, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrews, Dr Andrew Duncan physician in Edinburgh; from the University of St Andrews, Professor John Cook; from the burgh of Crail, Mr Andrew Balfour advocate; from the burgh of Anstruther Wester, Mr William Chalmers writer in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Meigle, Mr Andrew Dun at Bendochie, James Thomson at Kingoldrum, Mr James Ogilvie at Ellie, and Mr Patrick Alison at Newhall, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr David Fernie at Kinnettles, Mr Thomas Wright at Roscobie, and William Adam, Esq; younger of Maryburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Forfar, John Adam of Maryburgh, Esq; from the presbytery of Dundee, Mr James Henderson at Monifieth,

Mr

Mr Robert Small at Dundee, Mr Andrew Hallay at Lundie, and Mr David Low, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr Alexander Mackie at Aberbrothock, and the Honourable Mr Baron Maule, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothock, Mr Alexander Hart Clerk of Justiciary; from the presbytery of Brechin, Mr Andrew Bruce at Brechin, Mr David Miller at Edzell, Mr Charles Nisbet at Montrose, and Mr John Scott advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Montrose, Captain Robert Mudie shipmaster in Leith; from the presbytery of Fordoun, Mr Robert Young at Benholm, Mr John Brymer at Marykirk, Mr James Walker at Dunnotter, and Dr William Young of Falside, ruling elder; from the burgh of Bervie, Sir William Augustus Cunninghame; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Mr John Brown at Newhills, Mr Patrick Duff at Old Machar, Mr James Forsyth at Belhelvie, Mr David Cruden at Nigg, James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Esq; and Mr John Mossman merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elders; from the city of Aberdeen, Provost John Duncan merchant in Aberdeen; from the King's College, Professor Gerard; from the Marishall College, Dr George Campbell principal of the Marishall College; from the presbytery of Kincardine-O'Neal, Mr Francis Downie at Banchoryternan, Mr William Forsyth at Aboyne, Mr John Ramsay at Strachan, and Lieutenant John Grant at Rippachie, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Alford, Mr John Lumsden at Strathdon, Mr Robert Lumsden at Kildrumie, Mr William Leslie at Auchindore, and Francis Kinloch younger of Gilmerton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ellon, Mr William Paterson at Logie Buchan, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, and Professor Thomas Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garioch, Mr George Adams at Kintore, Mr Patrick Davidson at Kemnay, Mr John Boniman at Premnay, and the Right Honourable Lord Westhall, ruling elder; from the burgh of Inveruray, John Clerk of Elden, Esq; from the presbytery of Turriff, Mr William Stewart at Turriff, Mr Robert Balingall at Forglen, and Mr Alexander Forbes writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Andrew Skene at Banff, Mr James Dunbar at Boyndie, and Mr John Robertson

writer

writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Cullen, Mr George Ogilvie advocate; from the preſbytery of Strathbogie, Mr John Cooper at Glaſs, Mr George William Algernon Gordon at Keith, and the Honourable Mr Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Aberlour, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr James Thomſon at Aberlour, and Mr Iſaac Grant writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Abernethy, Mr William Gordon at Alvie, Mr Lewis Grant at Duthell, and Dr Gregory Grant phyſician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Elgin, Mr Alexander Murray at Duffus, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, and Dr John Tait, phyſician at Eſperſton, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Watt at Forres, Mr James Gillon at Kinloſs, and James Grant of Corrimony, Eſq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovic Grant, *jun.* writer in Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Nairn, Mr Thomas Gordon at Auldearn, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, and Baillie John Lothian merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Nairn, Mr William Dunbar writer to the ſignet; from the preſbytery of Inverneſs, Mr Alexander Grant at Daviot, Mr William Smith at Pettie, and Mr Simon Fraſer advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Chanonry, Mr James Monro at Cromarty, Mr Alexander Wood at Roſemarkie, and Baillie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Fortroſe, Mr Charles Wright merchant in Edinburgh; from the preſbytery of Tain, Mr Patrick Grant at Logie-Eaſter, Mr Andrew Gallie at Kincardin, and Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers of Larbert, Eſq; from the preſbytery of Dingwall, Mr John Fraſer at Kilmorack, and Sir John Gordon, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Dingwall, William Campbell, younger of Fairfield, Eſq; from the preſbytery of Abertarph, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, Mr Thomas Roſs at Kilmanivaig, and Mr Colquhoun Grant writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Sky, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Martin M'Pherſon at Slate, and Mr Bannatyne M'Leod advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander M'Kay at Barvas, Mr John Downie at Stornoway, and Mr

William Robertſon advocate, procurator for the Church, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Murdoch M'Iver at Lochalſh, Mr John M'Queen at Applecroſs, and William M'Donald of Renetton, Eſq; writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Dornock, Mr William Gun at Golſpey, Mr Æneas M'Leod at Rogart, and Mr Alexander Abercrombie writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dornock, Captain James Sutherland of Oldannie; from the preſbytery of Tong, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr William M'Kenzie at Tongue, and the Hon. George M'Kay of Tongue, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Caithneſs, Mr Alexander Oliphant at Bower, Mr Alexander Nicolſon at Thurſo, and Alexander Abercrombie, Eſq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wick, John Sawers of Bellſmill, Eſq; from the preſbytery of Kirkwall, Mr James Aliſon at Holm, Mr James Weir at South Ronaldſhay, and Baillie Walter Hamilton merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkwall, Dean of Guild Charles Innes; from the preſbytery of Cairſtone, Mr James Tyrie at Sandwick, Mr James Bremner at Walls, and Mr George Home baker in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of North Iſles, Mr William Clouſton at Croſs and Burneſs, Mr James Leſlie at Rouſay, and Baillie John Learmonth at Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Zetland, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr Patrick Mair at Breſſay, and Bailie John Grieve merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Edinburgh, Dr George Wiſhart, Mr William Bennet at Duddingſtone, Dr Hugh Blair, Mr James Brown, Dr William Gloag, Edinburgh; Mr William Lothian Canongate, James Hunter-Blair of Dunſkey, Eſq; Mr Alexander Tait one of the Principal Clerks of Seſſion, and Mr James Hardie, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, and Conveener Alexander Hamilton; from the Univerſity of Edinburgh, Principal Robertſon; from the Church of Campvere, Mr James Yair, and Mr John Home, Eſq; ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Linlithgow, Mr James Lindſay at Kirkliſton, Mr George Ellis at Carridden, Mr Robert Wiſhart at Livingſtone, Mr William Baron at Whitburn, the Hon. Charles Hope-Weir, and Mr Charles Addiſon merchant in Borroſtouneſs,

neſs,

neſs, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provoſt Robert Clark; from the burgh of Queensferry, Bailie James Taylor; from the preſbytery of Biggar, Mr William Lockhart at Coulter, Mr William Tait at Kilbucho, Mr David Dickſon at Liberton, and the Right Hon. the Earl of Hyndford, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Peebles, Mr Charles Findlater at Linton, Mr Robert Scot at Innerliethen, and the Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the burgh of Peebles, Alexander Stevenſon of Smithfield, Eſq; from the preſbytery of Dalkieth, Dr Harry Grieve at Dalkieth, Mr John Main at Newton, Mr John Gourlay at Crichton, and Mr Niel Ferguſon advocate, ruling elder; from the preſbytery of Haddington, Mr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr Matthew Murray at North Berwick, Dr Joſeph M'Cormick at Preſtonpans, and Charles Brown of Coalſton, Eſq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Haddington, William Law, Eſq; of Elvington; from the burgh of North Berwick, Hugh Dalrymple, Eſq; younger of North Berwick; from the preſbytery of Dunbar, Mr David Spence at Cockburnſpath, Mr Daniel M'Queen at Preſton-kirk, and Mr John Dudgeon, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunbar, Sir George Suttie of Balgonie, Bart. ruling elder; and added Dr John Dryſdale, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator, to be Commiſſioners of this General Aſſembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be miniſters, to meet and conveen within the Aſſembly-houſe at Edinburgh, the firſt day after the diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the ſecond Wedneſday of Auguſt, third Wedneſday of November, and the firſt Wedneſday of March next to come, and oftner when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient, with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chuſe their own Moderator: And likewiſe, the General Aſſembly fully impowers their ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, in every matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Aſſembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform

form to the inſtructions given, or to be given by this Aſſembly; and to advert to the intereſt of the Church on every occaſion, that the Church, and preſent eſtabliſhment thereof, do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable: Provided always, that this general clauſe be not extended to particular affairs or proceſſes before ſynods or preſbyteries, that are not of univerſal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private proceſſes be determined, except at the four ſtated diets; and what ſhall be determined at one diet of the Commiſſion, with relation to private cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and ſhall ſtand and continue in force, till diſapproven by the General Aſſembly. And the Aſſembly renews the inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventeen, to their Commiſſion, and appoints the ſame to ſtand in full force, as inſtructions to the Commiſſioners before named, and to be obſerved by them in all points, as if the ſame were ſpecially here inſert; and that they enquire into the publiſhing and ſpreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconſiſtent with our *Confeſſion of Faith*; and that the recommenders of ſuch books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the ſaid Commiſſion to anſwer for the ſame. And further, the ſaid Commiſſion is hereby impowered to receive any references and appeals that ſhall be made to them from ſynods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen ſuch affairs for the next General Aſſembly; and to contribute what they can to the ſuppreſſing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and aſſiſtance to ſynods and preſbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewiſe to take care that the impreſſions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confeſſion of Faith* and *Catechiſms*, and ſuch books as are authoriſed by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worſhip, diſcipline, and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the ſame. And the Commiſſioners are appointed and impowered to keep a correſpondence with the committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, for ſuppreſſing Popery and ſuperſtition, and for promoting

ing the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censureable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners, particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions, relative to the settlements of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, That when any presbytery or synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give

the ſame a full execution, in that caſe the Commiſſion is hereby prohibited to execute the ſame, by appointing any ſuch correſpondent meeting as has been ſometimes the practice, but ſhall allow the ſame to lye over to the enſuing Aſſembly, to which ſuch preſbyteries or ſynods ſhall be anſwerable for ſuch their conduct, and are hereby appointed to ſend up with their Commiſſioners their reaſons for the ſame. And the Aſſembly doth further impower and direct the ſaid Commiſſion, to make due application to the King and Parliament for redreſs of the grievance of patronage, in caſe a favourable opportunity for ſo doing ſhall occur during the ſubſiſtence of this Commiſſion: And that in paſſing their ſentences, and in ordering the execution of the ſame, they ſtrictly obſerve the 12th act of the Aſſembly 1736.

VII. Overture

VII.

Overture and interim Act, concerning Persons going to be Licensed or Ordained without the Bounds of this Church.

Edinburgh 29th May 1778.

WHEREAS it is a matter of the greatest importance to the interests of religion, to prevent persons not duly qualified from becoming preachers and ministers of the gospel; and as it has often been complained of, that persons not qualified according to the acts of this Church, have retired out of its bounds to places where they were not well known, and have obtained licence to preach, or been ordained ministers of the gospel: Therefore the General Assembly do hereby prohibit all persons educated or residing within the bounds of this Church, to go out of its bounds to obtain licences to preach; and prohibit all preachers, licensed by this Church, from going without its bounds to obtain ordination, unless they are called to a particular congregation in another country: And enact, that licences obtained in that manner shall not be received, or have any effect in this Church; and such preachers as contravene this act, shall forfeit the license formerly given them, and be no longer entitled to the privileges which belong to a preacher of the gospel in this Church.—The General Assembly do hereby retransmit the above, as an overture, to the several presbyteries, strictly requiring such of them as have hitherto been deficient, to send up their opinions thereupon to the next General Assembly; and do further ordain this overture, as an interim act, to have the force of a law till the next General Assembly.

[*The*

VIII.

[*The General Aſſembly tranſmits to Preſbyteries the following Overture, and recommends it to them to pay particular attention thereto.*]

Overture anent the Ordination of Elders.

Edinburgh, April 29th 1778.

THE Preſbytery of Edinburgh overture to the General Aſſembly: That whereas great irregularities have crept into the Church, with reſpect to the ordination of Elders, it ſhould be enacted, That no miniſter ſhall ſet apart any perſon to that ſacred office in his congregation, who has not a fixed reſidence in it, or ſuch property as would entitle him to vote in the calling of a miniſter; it being the true meaning and intent of this overture, to prevent elders being ordained in congregations, who are in no way connected with them. The preſbytery recommend it to their members to preſent and ſupport ſaid overture; and further give power to their Moderator, Dr Erſkine, and Mr David Johnſton, to appear and ſupport the ſame. Extracted by

JAMES CRAIG, *Preſbytery Clerk.*

IX.

Overture anent Licensing Probationers.

THE General Assembly, taking into their serious consideration the danger that ariseth to this Church, and to the souls of people, by licensing any to preach the gospel who are not duly qualified, according to the rules laid down in the Holy Scriptures; and considering that the several acts made by former General Assemblies, lye so scattered in many separate articles, at great distances from one another, that the directions therein given are in danger of being overlooked by presbyteries: Therefore the General Assembly, collecting what appears to them most material in former acts, ordain, That the following regulations shall be strictly observed by presbyteries in all time coming.

1*mo*, That no presbytery admit any person to probationary trials, but such as are found to be of good report, of sufficient learning, of sound principles, of a pious, sober, grave, and prudent behaviour, and of a peaceable disposition, and well affected to the government in church and state, and of whom they have sufficient ground to conceive that they shall be useful and edifying in the church, and that careful enquiry be made thereanent; and that without respect of persons, such as are esteemed to be light and vain in their behaviour, proud, worldly minded, or unacquainted with the power of practical godliness, be kept back from that sacred work.

2*do*, That none be admitted to trials in order to be licensed, but such as have produced to the professor of divinity at the time of their being enrolled, either a diploma of Master of Arts, or a certificate, bearing that they have gone through a full course of philosophy at the college, and who have either given close attendance on the divinity-hall for the space of four years, from the time of their names being entered upon the roll of

the preſbytery as ſtudents of divinity; or, if their circumſtances did not permit them to give cloſe attendance on the hall, have continued to proſecute the ſtudy of divinity for ſix years, and have in that time delivered the uſual number of diſcourſes; provided alſo, that, at the time of their being admitted to trials, they are twenty-one years of age complete.

3*tio*, The General Aſſembly, conſidering the reproach that may be brought on religion in general, and particularly on this Church, by the unworthy behaviour of ſuch as follow the ſtudy of divinity, do earneſtly recommend to the preſbyteries, profeſſors of divinity, and miniſters and members of this Church, to keep a watchful eye on ſuch ſtudents, during the terms above ſpecified. And further, that when any ſtudent comes to attend the profeſſor of divinity in any univerſity, he ſhall produce to the profeſſor, and to the miniſter of the pariſh where he is to reſide, during the time of his attendance on the profeſſion, a teſtimonial from the miniſter of the pariſh from whence he comes; and when he leaves the profeſſion, he ſhall carry back teſtimonials from the miniſter of the pariſh, of his grave and ſuitable behaviour becoming his character; and from the profeſſor, teſtimonials certifying the ſame, and alſo his regular attendance on the diets of the profeſſion, and the time he has attended. And when any profeſſor of divinity ſhall think fit to recommend a ſtudent, in order to probationary trials, his teſtimonials ſhall certify his proficiency in his ſtudies, and his moral character.

4*to*, The General Aſſembly do appoint and ordain, That no preſbytery admit any ſtudent to probationary trials, except ſuch as have reſided within their bounds for the ſpace of ſix months, or do produce to them ſufficient teſtimonials from the preſbyteries in whoſe bounds they have lived, or for the moſt part reſided, expreſſing, that it is the deſire of theſe preſbyteries that theſe ſtudents ſhould be entered upon trials. And ſuch ſtudents as come from abroad, ſhall produce ſatisfying teſtimonials from the profeſſors under whom they ſtudied; and the time of their being abroad ſhall be accounted a part of the ſix years; but none of theſe ſtudents ſhall

be

be entered upon trials for the ſpace of half a year after they come to Scotland.

5to, When any ſtudent is propoſed to a preſbytery, in order to be taken on trials, the propoſal ſhall lye on the table till the next ordinary meeting, before they give judgment therein, that diligent enquiry may be made, and information had concerning the ſaid ſtudent's qualifications and behaviour; and the preſbytery ſhall be alone when the propoſal is made and judged on; and the General Aſſembly enjoins all ſtudents to take all opportunities of cultivating an acquaintance with the miniſters of the preſbytery where they reſide, and where they are to paſs trials.

6to, When the Preſbytery, after ſerious enquiry and mature deliberation, ſhall agree to take the propoſed candidate on trials, they ſhall examine him ſtrictly and privately, in order to enable them to judge whether he poſſeſſes the piety, knowledge, abilities, and other qualifications neceſſary for a preacher of the goſpel.

7mo, The General Aſſembly appoints the ſame method to be obſerved, and trials to be taken in all the above particulars, before any preſbytery recommend a ſtudent to paſs trials in another preſbytery.

8vo, The General Aſſembly do alſo appoint and ordain, That the terms above ſpecified being expired, and teſtimonials produced, and previous trials taken in manner above directed, the preſbytery, before they preſcribe any part of public trials, ſhall write letters to all the preſbyteries within the bounds of the ſynod, acquainting them with their deſign, two months at leaſt before ſitting of the ſynod; and at the ſaid next meeting of the ſynod, they ſhall alſo acquaint the ſynod thereof, and obtain their ſpecial advice and judgment in that particular; and that the members of the ſaid preſbytery and ſynod may be ripely adviſed thereanent, the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid letters to be duly and carefully tranſmitted to the ſeveral preſbyteries, and that intimation thereof be publicly made at the firſt diet of the ſynod, to lye on the table till the ſecond or ſome ſubſequent diet, and then particular enquiry be made whether any perſon have any thing to object againſt the ſtudent's being entered on trials for preaching the goſpel. Provided always

always, That in any part of this Church, when ſynods meet but once a year, a ſtudent may be propoſed to the ſynod half a year ſooner than would have been competent if the ſynod had met twice a year.

9*no*, The General Aſſembly recommends to preſbyteries, that before any ſtudent is entered on trials, the engagements required by act 10th Aſſembly 1711, of ſuch as are to be licenſed, be read to them; and that the preſbytery take promiſe of them, that they will ſubſcribe to, and particularly obſerve the ſame, in caſe the preſbytery ſee cauſe to licenſe them; and that this promiſe be recorded in their books.

10*mo*, The General Aſſembly appoints the public probationary trials of ſtudents, who are to be licenſed probationers, to be the following, *viz.* 1. The catechetic trials to be renewed in preſence of the preſbytery, and that previouſly to all the other parts of publc trials. 2. A homily in Engliſh on a Scripture text. 3. An exegeſis in Latin on a controverted head of Divinity, and ſuſtaining a theſis and diſpute thereon. 4. An exerciſe and addition. 5. A lecture on a large portion of Scripture. 6. A popular ſermon on a particular text of Scripture. 7. A trial on chronology and Church hiſtory, eſpecially the hiſtory of our own Church. *Laſtly*, A trial on their knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages.

11*mo*, The General Aſſembly, judging it fit that the ſame method ſhall be followed in all preſbyteries as to queſtions put to, and engagements taken of probationers when licenſed; and that the ſaid probationers ſhould not only give ſufficient proof of their piety, literature, and other good qualifications for the ſacred miniſtry, but alſo come under the ſtricteſt engagements to adhere to and maintain the doctrine, worſhip, diſcipline, and government of this Church: Do therefore enact and appoint, That the queſtions appointed by act 10. 1711, be put to all ſuch as paſs trials; and likewiſe that they ſhall ſubſcribe the *Formula* ſet down in the ſaid act, before they be licenſed to preach the goſpel. And the General Aſſembly ſtrictly prohibits the licenſing any perſon whatſomever, who ſhall not give explicit and ſatisfying anſwers to theſe queſtions, and ſubſcribe the ſaid *Formula*,

and

and discharge any presbytery to make use of any other questions or *Formula*.

12*mo*, When any presbytery, who, with the synod's allowance, has entered, or who is about to enter a student on trials, shall receive a letter from any presbytery, shewing their dissatisfaction with that student, and giving relevant grounds for the same, which they offer to verify to the presbytery at their next meeting, the said student shall not be licensed until the matter be tried. And the General Assembly appoints presbyteries, who shall receive such letters anent students from any other presbytery, to write a return with the first post after their meeting, acquainting them of their next diet.

13*tio*, That the acts concerning Simony be read before licensing any probationer.

14*to*, For the better observation of this act, it is particularly recommended to the professors of divinity, to communicate the contents thereof to their students in a public meeting annually, at such time, in the month of January, as to them seems most convenient. And all presbyteries and synods are peremptorily appointed to observe the same in all its parts: And it is strictly enjoined, that visitors of presbytery-books make strict enquiry how the several presbyteries do observe the same.

X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 20th day of May, in the year 1779.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, JOHN DRYSDALE, } *Cls. Ecc. Scot.*

TABLE of the printed Acts of the General Assembly, held in the year 1778.

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INDEX OR ABRIDGEMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the Year 1778, which are not printed at full length.

May 21. 1778. *Seſſ.* 1*ſt.*

AFTER ſermon by the Rev. Mr James Brown, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, Moderator of the laſt General Aſſembly, the Miniſters and Ruling Elders convened in the Aſſembly-houſe, and after prayer by the ſaid Mr James Brown, Dr Patrick Grant miniſter of the goſpel at Urray, was choſen Moderator, and, at the Aſſembly's deſire, took the chair.

The King's Commiſſion to the Right Hon. George Earl of Dalhouſie, to repreſent his Majeſty's royal perſon, read, and recorded.

The King's moſt gracious letter to the Aſſembly, read and recorded.

The Commiſſioner's ſpeech at opening this Aſſembly, and the Moderator's ſpeech in return thereto.

His Majeſty's royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered in to the Aſſembly by his Grace the Commiſſioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A committee named for anſwering the King's moſt gracious letter.

A motion made for addreſſing his Majeſty on the preſent ſituation of affairs, unanimouſly agreed to, and the ſame committee appointed to prepare a draught thereof, and to bring in the ſame as ſoon as poſſible.

A committee named for reviſing the commiſſions to the members of this Aſſembly, cenſuring abſents from diets

diets thereof; naming miniſters to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner; receiving in liſts of the probationers in the ſeveral preſbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A letter from Lord Weſthall, informing the Aſſembly, that the office of Procurator for the Church had become and was vacant, by his Lordſhip's late promotion to the Bench, read.

A motion made to return thanks to Lord Weſthall for the fidelity and great attention which his Lordſhip had paid to the public buſineſs and affairs of the Church committed to him, unanimouſly agreed to, and a committee appointed to wait upon him for that purpoſe.

The Aſſembly appointed Tueſday next, for filling up the offices of the Church that had been poſſeſſed by Lord Weſthall.

Committee for overtures named.

Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.

Adjournment.

May 22. 1778. *Seſſ.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

A diet ſpent in prayer.

Act VII. of Aſſembly 1718, for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of the Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.

Miniſters named to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner.

The committee for overtures and bills, and for reviſing commiſſions, appointed to meet this evening at their uſual places.

Adjournment.

May 23. 1778. *Seſſ.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

The roll of cauſes tranſmitted by the committee for bills called for, produced and read over.

The report of the committee for overtures called for; it was reported, that no objection to commiſſions were offered by the committee for reviſing them; upon a

motion of a member of Aſſembly, the commiſſion from the burgh of Wick was remitted to the committee for reviſing commiſſions.

The draught of an anſwer to the King's moſt gracious letter to this Aſſembly brought in and approven; and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertakes to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The draught of an addreſs to his Majeſty on the preſent ſituation of affairs, brought in and approven; and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertakes to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

A committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly.

A committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the committee named by laſt Aſſembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.

A committee named to audit the Procurator and Agent's accounts, conſider the ſtate of the public money, and prepare overtures about the ſame.

The committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening at ſeven o'clock, and empowered to receive in from the ſeveral members, any inſtructions given to them by their reſpective ſynods or preſbyteries, claſs the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Aſſembly; and to receive in and conſider any accounts that ſhall be given them of the ſtate of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and ſuperſtition, and prepare overtures for preventing or ſuppreſſing thereof.

The committee for reviſing commiſſions appointed to meet in the Aſſembly-houſe at ſix o'clock this evening.

The committee for bills appointed to meet this evening at half paſt ſix in their uſual place.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1778. *Seſſ.* 4.

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

The report of the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.

A committee named to conſider a reference from the preſbytery of Couper.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, produced, and read over.

The commiſſion from the burgh of Wick ſuſtained, and the objection repelled.

A committee named to conſider an overture from the preſbytery of Haddington, and another on the ſame ſubject from the ſynod of Fife, and to report on Friday next.

A committee named to conſider an overture from the preſbytery of Edinburgh, and to report on Friday next.

A committee named to conſider an overture from the preſbytery of Perth, and to report on Friday next.

An overture from the ſynod of Angus and Mearns, read, and ordered to lye on the table till an after-diet.

The ſynod-books called for.

A committee named to reviſe the ſynod-book of Galloway.

A committee named to reviſe the ſynod-book of Angus and Mearns.

None of the other ſynod-books being brought up to this Aſſembly, reſolved that the reaſons thereof be enquired into.

The committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with power to them to conclude a bargain, in conſequence of a treaty entered into between the Duke of Gordon and the preſbytery of Fordice, with regard to the lands belonging to that fund; and authoriſed them to write a letter of thanks to his Grace, for the great attention he has been pleaſed to pay to the intereſt of religion in that corner of the country.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at ſeven o'clock, in their ordinary places.

The committee on the pſalmody appointed to meet at the riſing of this ſederunt, and to report.

Reſolved to conſider on Wedneſday firſt the returns of preſbyteries and univerſities, to the propoſals anent the widows fund, tranſmitted by laſt General Aſſembly to their conſideration. On Thurſday the cauſe relative to the ſettlement of Clackmannan. And, on Friday, the cauſe anent Mr James Lawſon.

Adjournment.

May

May 26. 1778. *Seſſ.* 5.

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

The report of the committee for bills, called for, produced, and read.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, produced, and read.

An overture from the preſbytery of Linlithgow read, and remitted to the committee appointed to conſider the overture from the preſbytery of Edinburgh, on the ſame ſubject.

The report of the committee on the window-tax, called for, produced, and read, and Dr Wiſhart authoriſed to defray the expences mentioned in ſaid report, out of the fund in his hand, and at the diſpoſal of the Aſſembly.

A committee named to wait upon his Grace the Commiſſioner, and to give him the thanks of the Aſſembly, for the great care and attention his Grace had been pleaſed to pay to this affair.

The thanks of the houſe was given to the Lord Advocate, in preſence, for the great care and attention his Lordſhip had likewiſe been pleaſed to pay to the above affair.

The report of the committee on the pſalmody called for, produced, and read.

The ſaid committee renewed, with power to print and tranſmit to preſbyteries the collection already made, if they ſee cauſe.

Mr William Robertſon advocate, elected, conſtituted, and appointed Procurator for the Church, as alſo Receiver of the Church's public money, and Caſhier of his Majeſty's Royal Bounty, in the place of Lord Weſthall.

Mr Robertſon compeared, and the oath *de fideli* was adminiſtered to him.

A committee named to take bond, with ſufficient ſureties, for Mr Robertſon's intromiſſions.

All petitions given into the Aſſembly this year, craving aid out of the public funds, ordered to be put into the hands of the procurator, in order that he might give his opinion thereupon.

Reſolved

Reſolved to take in on Thurſday the cauſe relative to the Chappel of Eaſe of Dumfermline, if time for it.

Adjournment.

May 27. 1778. *Seſſ.* 6.

Sederunt.

In conſequence of the reſolution of the 25th inſt. to take under conſideration the propoſals anent the widows fund, tranſmitted by laſt Aſſembly to preſbyteries and univerſities for their conſideration; the truſtees gave in to the Aſſembly a repreſentation containing theſe propoſals, and the returns made thereto by the preſbyteries and univerſities, which were all read over, and, after mature deliberation, finally adjuſted and ſettled; and the Aſſembly reſolved, that application ſhould be made to next ſeſſion of Parliament, for obtaining the intended act of Parliament, and unanimouſly agreed that a commiſſioner ſhould be ſent to London for that effect, and nominated and appointed the Rev. Dr Alexander Webſter, one of the miniſters of the city of Edinburgh, and preſent collector of the widows fund, their commiſſioner for that purpoſe, and granted him commiſſion in ample form, and referred to the truſtees to join another perſon with him, if they ſhould think proper.

A committee named to wait upon his Grace the Lord High Commiſſioner and the Lord Advocate, to beg their aid and aſſiſtance in the above matter.

Adjournment.

May 28. 1778. *Seſſ.* 7.

Sederunt.

The committee appointed by yeſterday's diet to wait on his Grace the Commiſſioner, reported that they had done ſo accordingly, and that his Grace was graciouſly pleaſed to aſſure them he would do every thing in his power to have the intended ſtatute carried through. The thanks of the houſe were returned to his Grace for his kind offer.

The Commiſſioner or Commiſſioners appointed to correſpond with the truſtees, along with the committee appointed for that purpoſe.

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The Procurator and Agent's accounts produced, and ordered to lye on the table.

The ſynod-book of Fife produced, and a committee named to reviſe the ſame.

The ſynod-book of Lothian and Tweedale produced, and a committee named to reviſe the ſame.

The committee appointed to receive the Procurator's bonds of caution, produced the ſame, which the General Aſſembly approved of, and ordered them to be laid up amongſt the Church's papers.

A motion being made, That, as a bill for the relief of the Roman Catholics in England has been lately brought into Parliament, and is already paſſed in the houſe of Commons; and, as the next Seſſion of Parliament may perhaps be over before another General Aſſembly, That this Aſſembly may give particular inſtructions to their Commiſſion, that at their ſtated meetings, they ſhould be very watchful over the intereſts of the Proteſtant religion in this part of the united kingdoms, and that they be very attentive, when any propoſal ſhall be made to extend the bill to Scotland; and, if any thing occur, to make an extraordinary meeting of the Commiſſion neceſſary, this Aſſembly, (in regard their moderator lives at a great diſtance from Edinburgh,) impower and ordain their principal clerk, upon a requiſition made by the preſbytery of Edinburgh, or by any ten miniſters of the Church, to call an extraordinary meeting of the Commiſſion, by advertiſements in the news-papers; and the Aſſembly appoint all their members to acquaint their conſtituents with the above reſolution, that ſo they may ſend proper information concerning this matter to the meetings of the Commiſſion. The Aſſembly, after reaſoning at great length upon the motion, rejected the ſame, and allowed diſſents to be taken in to-morrow.

Dr George Wiſhart, principal clerk to the Aſſembly, gave in the following repreſentation and propoſal: That he has had the honour to ſerve the Church as their clerk theſe two and thirty years: That now he finds certain infirmities of age coming upon him, which make him unable to perform the buſineſs of his office to that advantage he would wiſh to do, at the

ſame time, that he ſtill inclines, while it pleaſed God to continue him in life, to be as uſeful to the Church in that office as he can: What he now begs leave to propoſe to the General Aſſembly is, that he ſhall reſign his office, as principal clerk to the Church, into the hands of the General Aſſembly, to the end that he and another may be elected conjunct in the ſaid office of principal clerk, with the ſurvivancy to be in the longer liver of the two. The motion was ordered to lye on the table till to-morrow's diet, and then to be taken in and conſidered before any other cauſe.

The committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening, at ſeven o'clock, in their uſual place.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1778. *Seſſ.* 8*th.*

Sederunt.

Reaſons of diſſent againſt the judgment of the Aſſembly, on the motion anent the bill now depending in parliament for the relief of Roman Catholics, were given in by Dr Gillies, one of the miniſters of Glaſgow, and read over, and ordered to be kept *in retentis*; ſundry members adhered to them.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, produced, and read over.

The overture anent perſons procuring licences or ordination without the bounds of this church, ordered to be tranſmitted to preſbyteries, in order that thoſe who had not ſent up their returns, might do it on or before next Aſſembly; and, in the mean time, ordained the ſaid overture to ſtand as an *interim* act for another year.

The overture anent licenſing probationers, ordered to be retranſmitted to preſbyteries; and as very few returns had been made to this overture, the Aſſembly recommends it to preſbyteries to pay particular attention thereto.

A committee named to conſider an overture from the preſbytery of Dumbarton, anent new erections, appointed to bring in their report to-morrow if poſſible, if not, againſt Monday next.

An overture anent the widows ſcheme tranſmitted to the conſideration of the truſtees.

The

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the reference from the preſbytery of Cupar called for; the committee reported that they were not as yet ready to make any formal report to the Aſſembly, and moved that the Commiſſion might be impowered to take in the ſame, which was agreed to.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the overtures from the preſbyteries of Edinburgh and Linlithgow, called for, given in and read, and the overtures recommitted to the committee formerly named, in order that they might, from the two, frame one overture fit to be tranſmitted to preſbyteries.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the overture from the preſbytery of Perth, called for. A member of that committee reported verbally, that as the affair to which it related was of very general importance, it was the opinion of that committee, that the Procurator and Agent of the church ſhould be appointed to carry on that proceſs at the public expence, which the Aſſembly agreed to.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the overtures from the preſbytery of Haddington and ſynod of Fife, anent Chapels of Eaſe, called for, produced and read over, and ordered to lye on the table till Monday next, for the inſpection of the members.

The report of the truſtees for the widows fund, produced, and ordered to lye on the table for the peruſal of the members.

The Aſſembly proceeded to take under their conſideration, the repreſentation and motion made yeſterday by the Rev. Dr George Wiſhart, principal clerk of Aſſembly, and after the repreſentation was read over, a motion was made, That the General Aſſembly ſhould wave the acceptance of Dr Wiſhart's reſignation, and in the mean time allow him to nominate an aſſiſtant for himſelf, to officiate in the office till next General Aſſembly. Another motion was made, That the General Aſſembly ſhould accept Dr Wiſhart's reſignation, and immediately proceed to re-elect him, together with an aſſiſtant and conjunct principal clerk, with the ſurvivancy to be in the longer liver of the two, and Dr John Dryſdale, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh,

was

was named as a proper perſon to be choſen conjunct clerk with Dr Wiſhart; and after reaſoning thereupon, the General Aſſembly came to the following ſtate of a vote, *wave* or *accept*; by *wave* being underſtood the firſt motion, and by *accept* the ſecond motion; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried, by a great majority, *accept*; whereupon the ſaid Dr George Wiſhart judicially reſigned his ſaid office of principal clerk to the Church into the hands of the General Aſſembly. Then the Aſſembly accepted of Dr Wiſhart's reſignation of the office of principal clerk, and declared the ſaid office vacant. Immediately thereafter the General Aſſembly proceeded to the election of principal clerk to the Church, and unanimouſly nominated, conſtituted, and appointed the ſaids Dr George Wiſhart, and Dr John Dryſdale, to be conjunct principal clerks to the General Aſſembly, and Commiſſions thereof, and the ſurvivancy of the ſaid office of principal clerk to be in the longeſt liver of the two ſolely; thereafter the ſaid Dr George Wiſhart, and Dr John Dryſdale ſeverally compeared, and took the oath *de fideli*, and their ſeats accordingly.

An appeal of the Right Honourable Sir Laurence Dundas of Kerſe, Bart. patron of the pariſh of Clackmannan, and the Reverend Mr Thomas Oſwald, preſented by him to the ſaid pariſh, againſt a ſentence of the preſbytery of Stirling, refuſing to ſuſtain Mr Oſwald's call to be miniſter of ſaid pariſh; and another of the ſynod of Perth and Stirling, affirming the ſaid ſentence of the preſbytery, heard; the ſentence of the preſbytery and ſynod *reverſed*, the call to Mr Oſwald *ſuſtained*, and the preſbytery of Stirling appointed to proceed to his ſettlement betwixt and the firſt Wedneſday of September next; and the Commiſſion empowered to receive in and judge upon any appeal or complaint that might be regularly brought before them relative to that affair.

Adjournment.

May 30. 1778. *Seſſ.* 9*th.*

Sederunt.

The committee on the overture from the preſbytery of Dumbarton, appointed to meet in the Aſſembly-houſe on Monday morning at ten o'clock.

Act approving of the account of David Dalrymple, Esq (now Lord Westhall) late Procurator for the Church, and exonering and discharging his Lordship and his cautioners of the sums of L.110 : 2 : $1\frac{1}{12}$ Sterling, and L.500 Sterling; and authorising the present Procurator to allow the balance of L.54 : 15 : $8\frac{1}{12}$ Sterling, due to his Lordship, at settling accounts with him.

Act approving the account of James Edmonstone, Agent for the Church, and appointing that he should have credit in his next account for the sum of 12s. $0\frac{1}{2}$d Sterling, being the balance due to him.

An account due to William Miller, late stationer to the Church, ordered to be paid.

The report of the committee, named to consider the applications for shares of the public money, given in and read, together with the Procurator's opinion thereon; which being considered by the Assembly, they remitted the processes, mentioned in these applications, to the Procurator and Agent, to carry on at the public expence; *viz.*

The process mentioned in the petition for the synod of Aberdeen.

The process mentioned in the petition for Mr Patrick M'Arthur minister at Ardnamurchan.

The process mentioned in the petition for Mr Peter Campbell minister at Glasserie.

The process mentioned in the representation for the presbytery of Auchterarder.

The clerks appointed to write to the creditors, ranked upon the fund of the Church, to know whether they considered themselves as creditors for the respective sums they are ranked for or not, it appearing that some of them might have been ranked to receive sums upon conditions that might not have taken place.

The report of the visitors of the Commission-book given in and read, and the Commission's conduct approven of; the Assembly's thanks given from the chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and their book ordered to be attested.

The report of the committee for naming the members of the Commission, and preparing instructions for them, given in, and approven of.

The

The report of the viſitors of the Royal Bounty-regiſter given in, and read; the conduct of the managers approven of, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

A committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commiſſion and inſtructions to them.

The report of the committee appointed to reconſider the overtures from the preſbytery of Edinburgh and Linlithgow, called for, produced and read; and the overture from the preſbytery of Edinburgh appointed to be printed, and tranſmitted to preſbyteries for their opinion thereupon.

An appeal of the donors for purchaſing and building the meeting-houſe in Dumfermline, occupied by the late Mr Thomas Gilleſpie, and of the Guildry and heads of families in the town and pariſh of Dumfermline adhering to them; and alſo, a petition and complaint of Meſſ. John Spence, Alexander Dalling, and Robert Rolland, miniſters in the preſbytery of Dumfermline, appealing againſt a ſentence of the ſynod of Fife, reverſing the ſentence of the preſbytery of Dumfermline, granting the deſire of the donors petition, heard; the ſentence of the ſynod *reverſed*, in reſpect of their irregularity, in not having called the donors before them; the ſentence of the preſbytery alſo reverſed, becauſe they had not complied with the inſtructions of laſt Aſſembly; and the cauſe again remitted to the preſbytery to examine into the whole circumſtances of it, and judge therein as they ſhould ſee cauſe.

Adjournment.

June 1. 1778. *Seſſ. ult.*

Sederunt.

The Procurator authoriſed to pay an account due to Meſſ. Neil and Company, printers in Edinburgh, for printing ſome reports anent the widows ſcheme.

Liſt of probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

The ſynod-book of Galloway atteſted.

The ſynod-book of Angus and Mearns atteſted.

The ſynod-book of Fife atteſted.

The ſynod-book of Lothian and Tweedale atteſted.

The General Aſſembly ordered all the ſynods, whoſe books had not been ſent up to this Aſſembly, to ſend them up to the next General Aſſembly.

The

The committee on the overture from Dumbarton continued till next Aſſembly, with power to apply to the Board of Truſtees of Annexed Eſtates, and to take ſuch other ſteps as they ſhould think moſt effectual for obtaining the end propoſed, and added Mr Allan M'Dougall, writer to the ſignet, to the committee.

The report of the truſtees for managing the fund for a proviſion to miniſters widows, &c. containing a ſtate of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings ſince laſt Aſſembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

The conſideration of the overtures anent chapels of eaſe delayed till the next Aſſembly.

An appeal of Mr James Lawſon, ſtudent in divinity, from a ſentence of the ſynod of Perth and Stirling, affirming a ſentence of the preſbytery of Auchterarder, refuſing to ſuſtain certain parts of his trials, and remitting him back to his ſtudies, heard, and the appeal withdrawn.

All cauſes brought before this Aſſembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commiſſion, with powers to them to judge, and finally determine therein.

A proteſtation admitted.

A committee named to reviſe the minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings at this and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the acts of the Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's ſederunt were read, the minutes of former ſederunts being read at the diets ſubſequent thereto.

The Moderator's ſpeech to the General Aſſembly, and his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

The Lord Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.

Act appointing next diet of Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly concluded with prayer and ſinging a pſalm.

FINIS.

Errata. P. 9. line penult. for *of* read *to.* P. 12. line 35. for *principle* read *principal.* P. 28. line 1ſt, for *Overture* read *Overtures;* direction line, for *Act* read *Overture.*